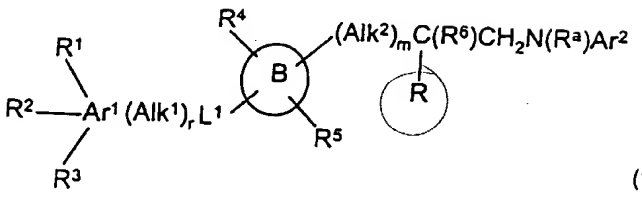
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula:



(1)

wherein

Ar^1 is an aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 which may be the same or different is each an atom or group $-L^2(Alk^3)_tL^3(R^7)_u$ in which L^2 and L^3 which may be the same or different is each covalent bond or a linker atom or group, t is zero or the integer 1, u is an integer 1, 2 or 3, Alk^3 is an aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain and R^7 is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from alkyl, $-OR^8$, where R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, $-SR^8$, $-NR^8R^9$, where R^9 is as just defined for R^8 and may be the same or different, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-CO_2R^8$, $-SO_3H$, $-SOR^8$, $-SO_2R^8$, $-OCO_2R^8$, $-CONR^8R^9$, $-OCONR^8R^9$, $-CSNR^8R^9$, $-COR^8$, $-OCOR^8$, $-N(R^8)COR^9$, $-N(R^8)CSR^9$, $-SO_2N(R^8)(R^9)$, $-N(R^8)SO_2R^9$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^9)(R^{10})$, where R^{10} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^9)(R^{10})$ or $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^9)(R^{10})$;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;

Alk^2 is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R^6 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

r is zero or the integer 1;

R is a carboxylic acid ($-CO_2H$) or a derivative thereof;

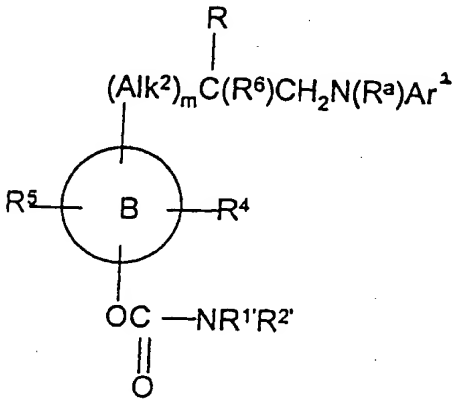
R^a is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

Ar^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

B is a nitrogen containing heteroaryl group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-Oxides thereof.

2. A compound of the formula:



II

wherein R, R^a, R^4, R^5, R^6, Alk^2, B, *m* and Ar^2 are as defined above and $R^{1'}$ and $R^{2'}$

are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, heteroaryl or $R^{1'}$ and $R^{2'}$, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, are joined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring; and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

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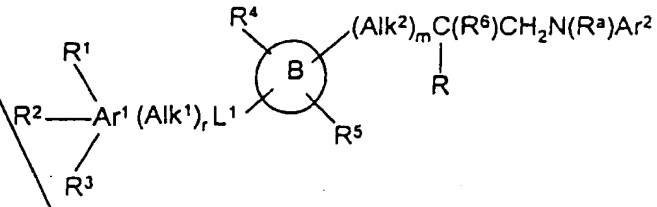
3. The compound according to Claim 2 wherein $R^{1'}$ and $R^{2'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, or R^1 and R^2, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, are joined to form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring provided that said substituted alkyl,

substituted alkenyl and substituted cycloalkyl do not carry an aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl or substituted heteroaryl group.

4. A compound of the formula:



(1)

wherein

Ar^1 is an aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 which may be the same or different is each an atom or group $-L^2(Alk^3)_tL^3(R^7)_u$ in which L^2 and L^3 which may be the same or different is each a covalent bond or a linker atom or group, t is zero or the integer 1, u is an integer 1, 2 or 3, Alk^3 is an aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain and R^7 is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from alkyl, $-OR^8$, where R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, $-SR^8$, $-NR^8R^9$, where R^9 is as just defined for R^8 and may be the same or different, $-NO_2$, -CN, $-CO_2R^8$, $-SO_3H$, $-SOR^8$, $-SO_2R^8$, $-OCO_2R^8$, $-CONR^8R^9$, $-OCONR^8R^9$, $-CSNR^8R^9$, $-COR^8$, $-OCOR^8$, $-N(R^8)COR^9$, $-N(R^8)CSR^9$, $-SO_2N(R^8)(R^9)$, $-N(R^8)SO_2R^9$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^9)(R^{10})$, where R^{10} is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^9)(R^{10})$ or $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^9)(R^{10})$;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group;

Alk^2 is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R^6 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

r is zero or the integer 1;

R is a carboxylic acid ($-CO_2H$) or a derivative thereof;

R^a is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

Ar^2 is selected from the group consisting of moieties of formula IIIa, IIIc, IIId, IIIe and IIIf:

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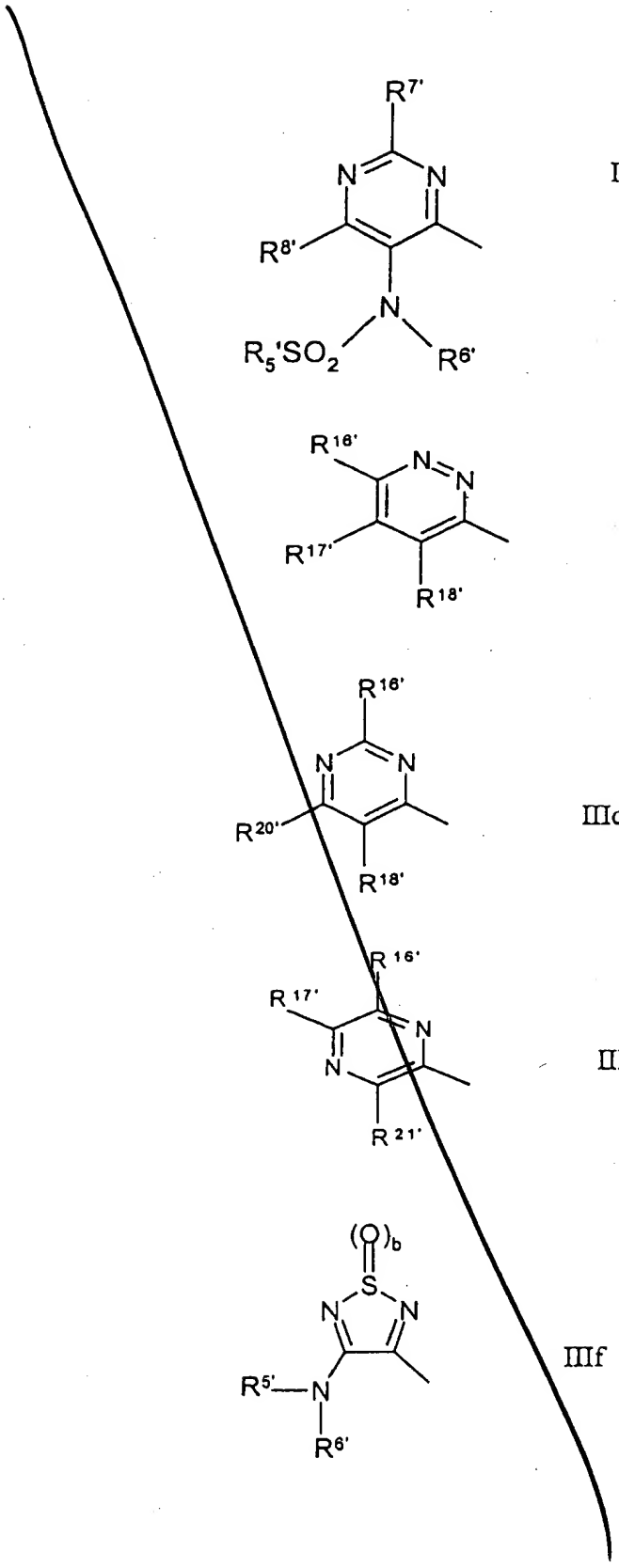

IIIa

IIIc

IIId

IIIe

IIIf

where $R^{5'}$ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, aryl, substituted aryl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocylic, heteroaryl'and substituted heteroaryl;

$R^{6'}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, and $-SO_2R^{10'}$ where $R^{10'}$ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl;

$R^{7'}$ and $R^{8'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic and halogen;

$R^{16'}$ and $R^{17'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, amino, substituted amino, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic and halogen; and

$R^{18'}$ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, amino, substituted amino, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic;

$R^{20'}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic and halogen;

$R^{21'}$ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, amino, substituted amino, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heterocyclic and substituted heterocyclic;

b is 1 or 2;

B is a nitrogen containing heteroaryl group;

and enantiomers, diastereomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and an effective amount of a compound according to any of Claims 1-4.

6. A method for binding VLA-4 in a biological sample which method comprises contacting the biological sample with a compound according to any of Claims 1-4 under conditions wherein said compound binds to VLA-4.

7. A method for treating an inflammatory condition in a mammalian patient which condition is mediated by VLA-4 which method comprises administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition of Claim 6.

8. The method according to Claim 7 wherein said inflammatory condition is selected from the group consisting of asthma, Alzheimer's disease, atherosclerosis, AIDS dementia, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, tissue transplantation, tumor metastasis, meningitis, encephalitis, stroke, nephritis, retinitis, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, myocardial ischemia and acute leukocyte-mediated lung injury.